



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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San Diego Public Library to Screen Documentary Film

"Alcatraz Is Not an Island" on Nov. 20

Screening in Celebration of Native American Indian Heritage Month

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library, in partnership with the Institute of American Indian Life and in celebration of Native American Indian Heritage Month, will screen the documentary film "Alcatraz is Not an Island." The screening will take place Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.

After generations of oppression, assimilation, and near-genocide, a small group of Native American students and "urban Indians" began the 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island in November 1969. "Alcatraz Is Not an Island" interweaves archival footage and contemporary commentary to examine how this historic event altered U.S. government Indian policy and programs, and how it forever changed the way Native Americans viewed themselves, their culture, and their sovereign rights.

"Alcatraz Is Not an Island" examines the personal sacrifices and individual tragedies experienced by those involved in the possession, focusing on the dramatic story of the leader Richard Oakes. It also explores the impact of the event on Native Americans nationwide. Out of Alcatraz's conquest came the "Red Power" movement of the 1970s, which has been called the lost chapter of the Civil Rights era, resulting in the Indian occupations of more than 70 other federal facilities. The seizure was more than a political event: it is now widely regarded as the turning point in a renaissance for Indian culture, traditions, identity, and spirituality.

Darlene Suarez, Ph.D., a cultural anthropology professor at Palomar College, will discuss a variety of Native American Indian issues, including sovereignty, cultural conflicts and social problems.

For more information, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>.

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